# March comes in like a lion

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3月のライオン

Chapter 10

# Over the Cuckoo's Nest

AH.

.....

IT'S COMING APART AT THE SEAMS.

NO...

IF I PULL, IT'LL ONLY UNRAVEL MORE...

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS?

SIGN: ALCOHOL / BANK ATM
BANNER: BENTO FAIR

PACKAGING: SEWING KIT

AH...

IS THIS IT?

*What awaited me in this house of shogi were...*

*Those who aspired to be shogi players, just like me.*
*The real children of the family–*

Kyoko, the sister who was four years older than me,

and Ayumu, a third grader who was the same age as me.

WHAT'RE YOU ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT!?

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A ZERO!

OTOU-SAN, PLEASE, JUST FORGIVE HER!

NO.

KYOKO IS A GIRL!

THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SHOGI!!!

HOW COULD SHE HIT AN OPPONENT WHO DEFEATED HER?!

BUT-!

No matter how you looked at her, she was like a vehement, angry tempest,

it was her stubbornness that caused him to treat her that way.

...Probably,

Father was very strict with Kyoko

in shogi...

in temperament...

and in beauty...

HEY, KYOKO!

WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT ME FOR, BRAT!?

.....

WHAT?

DID HE ACTUALLY CALL YOU "OTOU-SAN"?

WHAT WAS THAT?

JUST NOW...

.....

HM?

AH, YES PLEASE.

DO YOU WANT SEC-ONDS?

UM, OTOU-SAN...

AT HOME, IT SEEMS WRONG TO ALWAYS BE CALLED SENSEI.

THINK OF IT AS A "FATHER IN SHOGI".

THAT KID IS JUST YOUR STUDENT!

WHY?

HE'S NOT EVEN ADOPTED! WHY IS HE CALLING YOU "OTOU-SAN"!?

I TOLD HIM TO CALL ME THAT.

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

AH...

UM, I'M SORRY.

THAT'S AMAZING.

REI, YOU BEAT THAT FAMOUS AMATEUR, HASHIMOTO-SAN.

OH YEAH, INOUE-SAN FROM THE SHOGI HALL TOLD ME THE NEWS.

Father really loved shogi.

For better or for worse,
everything was "shogi-centred".

And so, those who loved him...

had to become strong

in order to stay
within his sights...

And so...
The first to be
affected by this...

was Ayumu.

UM...
THE STUDENT MY HUSBAND ADOPTED...
RECENTLY SURPASSED HIM IN SHOGI... SO...
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED IN YOUR HOME?
LATELY, AYUMU-KUN TENDS TO BE DEPRESSED IN SCHOOL.
HIS GRADES HAVE ALSO DROPPED.

IF HE'S NOT A PERSON WHO CAN PUSH HIMSELF FORWARD ON HIS OWN, IT'S POINTLESS.

BUT...

IF HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO PERSUADE HIM TO KEEP PLAYING, IT'S POINTLESS.

IMPOS-SIBLE!

I'VE AL-REA-DY GIVEN UP SHOGI...

THE ROAD AHEAD OF THAT IS SO LONG THAT IT'S OVERWHELMING.

BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER ISN'T THE GOAL.

将棋会館

SHŌGI KAIKAN

SHŌGI HALL

IS TO BECOME A PERSON WHO CAN MANAGE HIMSELF.

THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN KEEP ADVANCING DOWN ANY ROAD

THE FURTHER YOU GO, THE MORE DANGEROUS IT IS, AND THE LESS PEOPLE THERE WILL BE AROUND YOU.

EVEN IN 1ST DAN, THERE ARE PLENTY WHO ARE STRONGER THAN HIM.

IF YOU CANNOT DEFEAT REI, IT WILL BE USELESS TO KEEP GOING.

THE SHOREI-KAI!?

WHY!? WHY DO I HAVE TO QUIT

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

KYOKO.

...IN THE END,

THE ONLY ONE LEFT WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD?

THAT'S KIRIYAMA'S SON, ISN'T IT?

SO HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO TRAIN HIS RIVAL'S SON, AND HIS OWN CHILDREN BECAME HIS PREY...

HOW IRONIC.

!

!!

OW ..

After that

Kyoko would spend all her time playing around outside

Ayumu locked himself in his room, drowning himself in video games

The time that the three of us spent together was gone

.. trying to run away from it all.

became more and more and more absorbed in the study of shogi.

And so,

I had reached 3 dan.

by the end of my second year of junior high, I was just one step away from being a pro...

When the Cuckoo chick hatches, it pushes the actual children of the host parent out of the nest while they are still eggs and monopolizes the nest.

The Common Cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of Shrikes or Meadow Buntings.

Among birds, there is a species that does not raise its children.

This species engages in what is called "brood parasitism".

*Ahh... It's me.*

the murderer of its own children.

None the wiser, the parents work hard to bring food to the child of another,

*This bird... is me...*

they keep on feeding them.

Even though the Cuckoo chicks eventually become even larger than themselves...

*I have to leave this family.*

AS LONG AS I CONTINUE TO WORK HARD, THEN WITHIN THE YEAR... AT THE VERY LEAST BY NEXT YEAR, I WILL ADVANCE FROM 3 DAN AND BECOME A PROFESSIONAL.

SO I DON'T NEED TO GO.

IN MY OPINION, SCHOOL IS JUST A PLACE FOR KIDS TO CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE PATH...

YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL?

YES.

IS THAT REALLY ALL RIGHT?

*If I don't leave as soon as possible...*

I'LL WIN AND EARN MONEY...

AFTER I BECOME A PRO, I STILL HAVE TO WORK HARD AND MAKE MY WAY HIGHER.

I WANT TO CON-CENTRATE ONLY ON SHOGI.

AND I WILL BECOME INDEPEN-DENT.

*The members of this family...*

*Father...*

*Before I consume them all...*

IT'LL BE FINE.

WITH THIS, IT WON'T UNRAVEL ANYMORE.

IT'S DONE...

EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT PERFECT...

*I am a Cuckoo...*

THANK GOOD-NESS...

I CAN KEEP WEARING IT.

*standing on top of the lives that were pushed aside.*

I'M REALLY HAPPY.

IT'S REALLY WARM.

IT- IT'S OKAY.

HAHA.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S TOO BIG.

GO AHEAD AND WEAR THIS. IT'S MINE, BUT IT SHOULD BE OKAY.

REI, ARE YOU COLD?

HERE.

*As they sing of spring, I hear a voice calling in the distance...*

*And I think,*

Thank you,

Otou-san...

*if I ever really were a bird...*

*then...*

*at least I would...*

*pass through the days oblivious of such agonizing torment as this.*

Chapter 10 end